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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/213,510 12/17/98 BRANDT F 3557-US

MM91/0802

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866 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
SUITE 473
NEW YORK NY 10017

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2871

DATE MAILED: 08/02/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/213,510

Applicant(s)
Brandt et al.

Examiner
Dung Nguyen

Group Art Unit
2871



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 16, 2000.

☒ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 7

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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Response to Amendment

Applicant's amendment dated 05/16/2000 has been received and entered.

Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

2. Claims 1-7, 9, 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ogura et al., US Patent No. 5,915,822.

The above claims are anticipated by Ogura et al. figures 2-3 which disclose a display unit suitable for a vehicle comprising:

- a dial plate (18) and a display (LCD) located in a region of the dial plate, wherein a front surface of the display is arranged in the same plane as a front surface of the front of the dial plate (fig. 3);
- the display attached by clipping in the cut-out (25) located in the bottom of the dial plate;

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- the display inherently included a front panel, a rear panel and polarizers, a spacer (e.g., air or retardation plate as a lightproof channel) between the polarizers and the panel. (according the LCD device);
- a frame (29) for holding the display;
- a light source (12);
- an optical waveguide (13) abutting an edge of the display.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 8, 10 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al., US Patent No. 5,741,058.

Regarding claims 8, 15, Ogura et al. disclose the claimed invention as described above except for a support element located at the back of the dial plate. However, one of ordinary skill in the art would have realized the desire to form a support element in the back of a dial plate to support the dial plate and a display. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to form the Ogura et al. meter having a support

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member because it is a common practice in the art to fix a dial plate and a display on the support member.

Regarding claim 10, although Ogura et al. do not disclose the dial plate being made of plastic. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use plastic as a material of the dial plate, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Dung Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 305-0423. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-7726.

Any information of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

DN
07/28/2000



William L. Sikes
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 2871